

Alamo Heights News

CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS

6116 BROADWAY

78209

Volume 1, Issue 6

July 2007

Plugging the Holes When Water Flows

The hole left behind could have swallowed a small car by the time the water leak was found and repaired. Even worse, though, an estimated 44 million gallons of water had been lost in two months.

The good news is that an alert citizen reported the noise of running water, making it possible to find and repair the leak in the alley behind Wildrose before water showed on the surface. In that case water never would have appeared, because it was running underground into the sewer.

The method for finding leaks in the past has relied on seeing water on the ground or hearing the sound of running water, as in the Wildrose case. But a lot of water can be lost before a leak becomes physically apparent. So the city has embarked on a test to determine the reliability of a technology that uses sound detectors on water lines to locate and record the size of leaks.

In its first trial, the technology performed well, finding 12 leaks in the test areas and recording the amounts of water lost in each case. City staff began with the location of the largest leak and found it within five feet of where the equipment recorded it—a leak of more than 60 gallons per minute because of a fractured pipe.

To date, city staff have found and repaired the other three largest leaks that also were identified accurately. Together these four largest leaks represent a loss of more than six million gallons a month, about 10 percent of the total water the city pumps in an average month.

This trial demonstrated that the technology can locate large leaks accurately within five feet and can predict the size of the leaks. The next step will be a pilot program to test the technology that detects leaks on a continuing basis.

Next month: Putting Technology to Work Every Night

ments; repairs to facilities; and funds for a drainage master plan. The improvements will require debt since the estimated total cost will exceed the city's available funds.

Citizens can gain more information about the proposed projects and can comment on the financing proposal at two public hearings scheduled on July 23 and August 13 at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council chambers. A final decision regarding debt issuance will not be made until the City Council meeting of August 27. Information about the improvement program also is available at City Hall or on the Web site at www.alamoheightstx.gov/news.

Council Meetings Time Changes

To better allow citizens the opportunity to attend the Regular City Council Meetings the time has been changed from 5:00 p.m. to **5:30 p.m.** The meetings are held the second and fourth Monday of each month in the City Council Chambers located at 6120 Broadway. To view future meeting dates and posted agendas please visit the City website www.alamoheightstx.gov/news.

Also, to ensure better communication with our citizens the City is now sending out all meeting agendas through our Email Blast program. If you are not signed up to receive Email Blasts please either signup through the website or email Marian Ramirez, Assist. to the City Manager, at mramirez@alamoheightstx.gov.

Calendar

July

23	City Council Meeting	5:30 p.m.
24	Architectural Review Board	6:00 p.m.

August

1	Board of Adjustment	7:00 p.m.
6	Special City Council Meeting on Charter	6:00 p.m.
13	City Council Meeting	5:30 p.m.
21	Architectural Review Board	6:00 p.m.
27	City Council	5:30 p.m.

Council Begins Process for Funding Capital Improvements

City Council authorized publication of the notice of intention to issue certificates of obligation not to exceed \$7.5 million for 2007-09 capital improvement projects. Proposed projects include a new fire fighting and rescue apparatus; repairs to the water system, lines, wells, and elevated storage tank; street and sidewalk improve-

911 for EMERGENCY

Fire/EMS (Non Emergency): 824-1281
Police (Non-Emergency): 822-3321
Police Administration Office: 822-6433
Police Investigations: 822-2164

CITY HALL

Administration: 822-3331
Taxes: 882-1502
Water: 882-1507
Court Clerk: 882-1501
Public Works: 826-0516 (includes permits, garbage & trash, brush, recycling, inspections, etc.)

Mayor & Aldermen

Louis Cooper-MAYOR
882-1511
lcooper@alamoheightstx.gov

Bobby Rosenthal- MAYOR PRO
TEM/PLACE 2
882-1513
brosenthal@alamoheightstx.gov

Stan McCormick-PLACE 1
882-1512
smccormick@alamoheightstx.gov

Jill Souter-PLACE 3
882-1514
jsouter@alamoheightstx.gov

Bill Kiel-PLACE 4
882-1515
bkiel@alamoheightstx.gov

Susan Harwell-PLACE 5
882-1516
sharwell@alamoheightstx.gov

City Officials

Rebecca Waldman-CITY MANAGER
882-1500
rwaldman@alamoheightstx.gov

Shawn Eddy-PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
882-1506
seddy@alamoheightstx.gov

Darren Smith-FIRE CHIEF
832-2205
dsmith@alamoheightstx.gov

Rick Pruitt-POLICE CHIEF
832-2200
rpruitt@alamoheightstx.gov

Cynthia Barr-CITY TREASURER/
TAX -ASSESSOR COLLECTOR
882-1502
cbarr@alamoheightstx.gov

Judie Surratt-CITY SECRETARY/
HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER
882-1503
jsurratt@alamoheightstx.gov

Marian Ramirez-ASSISTANT TO CITY
MANAGER/DEPUTY CITY SECRETARY
882-1508
mramirez@alamoheightstx.gov

Jack Guerra - COMMUNITY DEV. MGR.
882-1504
jguerra@alamoheightstx.gov

Website: www.alamoheightstx.gov

CITY BRIEFS

Citizens Participate in Charter Amendment Hearing

Citizens who wanted to learn more about the proposed city charter propositions participated in the first public hearing on June 20 and asked a variety of questions on the three proposed Propositions.

1. Proposition One – To amend the city charter to eliminate provisions that have become inoperative because they have been superseded by state law; to replace citations to obsolete statutory references; to update terminology to current legal usage; and to eliminate the obsolete transitional provisions that no longer have effect.
2. Proposition Two – To amend the city charter to change to a council-manager form of government.
3. Proposition Three – To amend the city charter to limit the height of buildings to 55 feet inside the corporate city limits.

The City Council will decide on Aug. 6 whether to place the propositions on the Nov. 6 ballot based on comments from citizens participating in the public hearings. Any propositions on the ballot pass or fail individually.

Questions and answers from the Special City Council Meeting on June 20 is available on the city's Website at www.alamoheightstx.gov/news. The second public hearing is scheduled for **July 19**; the final public hearing and City Council consideration of placing charter amendments on the Nov. 6 ballot will be held Aug. 6. Both meetings are at 6:00 p.m.

Coyotes in the Alamo Heights Area

Recent sightings of coyotes in residential areas and in close proximity to humans have become a concern. Normally a shy and fleeting animal, coyotes in urban areas can quickly lose their fear of people and become aggressive.

To date, the city has received no reports of coyote attacks on people but aggressive behavior has been noted when pets are present. If a fearless coyote approaches you or your pet, try to frighten it away by shouting in a deep voice, waving your arms, throwing objects and looking it directly in the eyes. Stand up if you are seated. If you are wearing a coat or vest, spread it open like a cape so you appear larger. Retreat from the situation by walking slowly backward so you do not turn your back on the coyote.

Additionally, residents are asked to refrain from leaving pet food in containers outside their homes and to place all their trash in

covered trashcans. The pet food, water and trash may attract the coyote to feed.

Please report all coyote sightings to the Alamo Heights Police/Fire Dispatcher at 822-3321

City Hires New Public Works Director

Shawn Eddy joined the city of Alamo Heights on July 2 as the new Public Works Director. In this position, he oversees work on streets, drainage, solid waste, parks, water and sewer utilities, planning, economic development, code compliance and capital projects.

Eddy brings a strong management background, with more than nine years of increasingly responsible experience at the city of San Antonio in fiscal, operational and project management roles. Most recently, he served as the Director of Asset Management, overseeing the maintenance, repair and security of San Antonio's facilities, construction projects and real estate negotiations.

Eddy and his wife, Shelly, a local school-teacher, have three sons. He is active in martial arts and serves as a youth baseball coach. He received his B.A. degree in criminal justice and his Master of Public Administration degree, both from UTSA..

Two New Officers Join Police Department

The Alamo Heights Police Department would like to welcome the City's newest police officers—Emily Gore and Jordan Hosey.

Gore has lived in San Antonio since 2001 when she moved here from Kerrville to work as a security officer at Fiesta Texas, a position she held four years. She graduated second in her class from the Alamo Area Council of Governments Law Enforcement Academy and worked at the University of the Incarnate Word for a year before joining the Alamo Heights Police Department.

A San Antonio native, Hosey graduated from Churchill High School and is a 2006 graduate of the Alamo Area Council of Governments Law Enforcement Academy where he was the top graduate and president of his academy class. Alamo Heights is his first law enforcement assignment.

The two officers are currently are participating in the City's Field Training Officer Program.